P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 19th, 2012
2:00pm

Lt. Governor’s Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

Lt. Governor’s Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

A- Roll call and approval January 2012 meeting minutes

Chicago
Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education
Director George Reid, IL Board of Higher Education
President Geoff Obrzut, IL Community College Board
Jason Tyszko, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for Warren Ribley
Bob Blankenberger, IL Board of Higher Education
Elaine Johnson, IL Community College Board
Al Phillips, IL Board of Higher Education
Karen Helland, IL Board of Higher Education
Dan Harris, Ounce of Prevention Fund
Julie Smith, Governor’s Office
Amber Kirchhoff, Governor’s Office
DK Hirner, Lt. Governor’s Office
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor’s Office
Sheila Chalmers, Lt. Governor’s Office

Springfield
Director Brenda Klostermann, IL Education Research Council
Linda Tomlinson, IL State Board of Education
Karen Hunter Anderson, IL Community College Board
Deb Meisner-Bertauski, IL Board of Higher Education
Crystal Olsen, Lt. Governor’s Office

Phone
Lizanne DeStefano, P-20 Council
Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Miguel del Valle and seconded by Geoff Obrzut. Motion was passed unanimously.

**B- Discussion of the Lt. Governor’s Community College Report (Lt. Governor Sheila Simon)**

Simon indicated that she had just spoken at the Chicago City Club about her recently released Community College Report prior to the meeting.

Del Valle lauded the Lt. Governor for her work. Referencing a part of her report, he stated that the State should start requiring four years of math in high school as soon as possible. He asked how feasible it would be to pass legislation within the next year or two.

Chris Koch said that there are many issues related to requiring four years of math which would need to be worked out before drafting legislation and, ultimately, implementation. For example, ISBE would need to determine how 4-year math sequences would work with the Common Core. Would they go with the traditional model or with a more integrated model? Curriculum mandates may not be needed, but curriculum should be available.

Koch said he thinks the State Board is generally supportive of the idea of a fourth year of math. He indicated that California had bad results from requiring a fourth year of math because they didn’t do the work they needed to do prepare for the implementation. This is a model he does not want to replicate.

Julie Smith asked Koch if ISBE has looked to see how many districts already require a fourth year of math. Koch said his staff is looking into it.

**C- Status of Performance Funding Recommendations (Director George Reid)**

Reid stated that on February 7th, the Performance Funding Steering Committee will be presenting its recommendations to the Board of Higher Education and asking them to approve their metrics for performance funding. He said that perfecting performance funding in Illinois will be a process and that during the first round, only a small amount of money will be at risk for each institution in order to get everyone on board.

Al Phillips said that for the four-year institutions the greatest amount gained will be about 1/10 of 1% of the institution’s total state funding, and the greatest amount lost will be about 2/10 of 1% of their total state funding. Reid said that the percentage will likely rise over the next few years, though it is not likely to ever reach 100%.

**D- Update on Illinois Longitudinal Data System Governance (Director George Reid)**

Reid indicated that the ILDS governance group has met twice. At the second meeting it was decided that Ben Boer with Advance Illinois would head up a group looking at longitudinal data legislation from across the country, and would come up with policy questions that need to be addressed by the governance committee. The governance committee hopes to hire a manager for the ILDS in the next few months—potentially John Evans from the University of Illinois. Further meetings for ILDS governance will take place in February.

Del Valle stated that he recently attended the Data Quality Campaign National Summit, where he gave a presentation. He ultimately came away feeling that Illinois is on the right track with the ILDS. The collaboration between the Illinois agencies, including workforce agencies, is progressing nicely. He said that there is an opportunity to be #1 in the country for education data. But, we still need to finalize our governance structure, create a data warehouse, build up the research component, use data to promote professional development, and
raise awareness about the data available throughout the state. The Data Quality Campaign folks also really liked the report card. Del Valle indicated that he likes the idea of a postsecondary consumer report.

Tyszko said that the Workforce Data Quality Group will be meeting again on February 14th. The IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) will be sending a representative to this meeting for the first time, which is a good step.

E- Update on the No Child Left Behind Waiver (Superintendent Chris Koch)

Koch stated that eleven states submitted a waiver in November, though none if of the applications have been accepted thus far. ISBE is anticipating that they will submit a waiver by February 19th, the next due date. The waiver will be very important in directing education accountability in the next few years.

As part of the waiver, Koch would like to begin to measure college readiness through a third component of work keys. Work keys are being used extensively in the northwest part of Illinois by businesses in the area. Upon Jason Tyszko’s recommendation, ISBE is looking adding the National Career and Readiness Certificate (NCRC Plus) to the PSAE. The NCRC, which somewhat measures aptitudes, would require a legislative change. Koch would also like to require districts to administer the Explore and Plan test and would re-institute the writing test as part of the PSAE ACT. The third work keys test and writing test both have a cost to the State, which will be part of the ISBE budget proposal.

An important part of the waiver is growth, not just proficiency. The State Board will begin looking at a valued tables growth model, which could help close the achievement gap. Koch also hopes to raise the cut scores for the ISAT, particularly in elementary math, based upon research done by ACT. ISBE and other education advocates will have to help elementary schools talk to the public so that people understand the proficiency drop that will undoubtedly result from the rise in cut scores. However, schools will be able to get credit for growth over time.

Koch also wants to recognize schools with AP and IB courses, offer arts and language, and those that offer national career certificates, backing away from traditional CTE that offer no certificates.

F- Update on Race to the Top III (Superintendent Chris Koch)

Koch said that Darren Reisberg and others from his staff are currently in DC negotiating final details for RTTT III including performance measures required as part of the application. The money from this round of RTTT will be used to pay for some of the reforms that Illinois has already begun to implement. Once negotiations are over, he will bring the measures so the JELC knows what the metrics are. Guidance for districts is going out next week, and he will send those guidelines around.

G- Discussion on the Lumina College Productivity Network (Lynne Haefele)

Lynne Haefele stated that Lumina is seeking up to five states to join its College Productivity Network, which is currently engaging eleven states. She indicated that last week consultants for the Lumina Foundation came to Illinois for a site visit and met with representatives from IBHE, ICCB, and the Lt. Governor’s Office. Representatives from Lumina are visiting fourteen additional states in the coming weeks, and a decision will be made and invitations issued in the next month. The College Productivity Network could link Illinois with other states trying to scale up best practices to improve college attainment in accordance with the “60% by 2025” goal. Issues that the states will be looking at include performance funding, low cost high performance education delivery models, and operational efficiencies.

H- Update on the Illinois Pathways Initiative and rollout of the STEM Learning Exchanges (Jason Tyszko)

Jason Tyszko stated that the STEM Learning Exchanges are being funded through a $3 million allocation through Race to the Top. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and several agency heads will be attending the rollout event which
will take place on February 9th. Jobs for the Future and the Harvard Graduate School of Education have been tracking Illinois’s work on the Illinois Pathways Initiative, and they have requested us to petition to become one of their Pathways to Results implementation sites. We are in the position to become a national leader in developing this new type of infrastructure and taking a pathways approach.

Karen Hunter Anderson said that she also has staff working with Jobs of the Future to align pathway initiatives with the Accelerating Opportunities Grant, so they will coordinate.

I- Discussion of grants being pursued for funding P-20 (Lizanne Destefano)

Lizanne Destefano said that $154,000 was given by Chicago Community Trust to help set up the P-20 Council. The McCormick Foundation has given $45,000 to support the work of the Teacher and Leadership Development Committee, and the Boston Consulting Group has donated its services to support the development of the School Report Card. The World Education Forum, funded by the Chicago Community trust and McCormick Foundation, are giving mini-grants of up to $10,000 to look at education issues around the globe and relate them to education issues in Illinois. The application deadline is at the end of February. Destefano indicated that we may pursue that funding for the College and Career Readiness P-20 committee. The JELC thought that effort would be worthwhile.

The Chicago Community Trust will not be willing to continue funding the operations of the Council, but have indicated that they may be willing to do some research on education finance and governance.

J- Review of 2012 P-20 Recommendations to the General Assembly (Lizanne Destefano)

Destefano will be sending out a draft of the new P-20 recommendations to the JELC within the next few days.

K- Review of the January 24th P-20 Council Meeting Agenda (Lizanne Destefano)

Destefano stated that the Governor will be signing the Report Card legislation at the next P-20 meeting and went over agenda items.

L- Discussion on the 2012 JELC Committee Report (Crystal Olsen)

Crystal Olsen indicated that the JELC report would be going out with the P-20 Council’s report in February.

M- Next meeting is Wednesday, February 8th

N- Adjournment